

Soviet Architecture Assumes a New Look

Following is the 14th of a series of articles by reporters of The New York Times on a half-century of Soviet rule in Russia, to be observed on Nov. 7.

By ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE

THE 50th anniversary of the Russian Revolution began with one of Moscow's loveliest springs. Hedges of lilacs faced the Bolshoi Theater, tulips were fluorescent in the Alexander Gardens, and parks turned jungle green. Even the brusque earnestness of rushing Muscovites was touched by the pleasure of warm sun and clear skies.

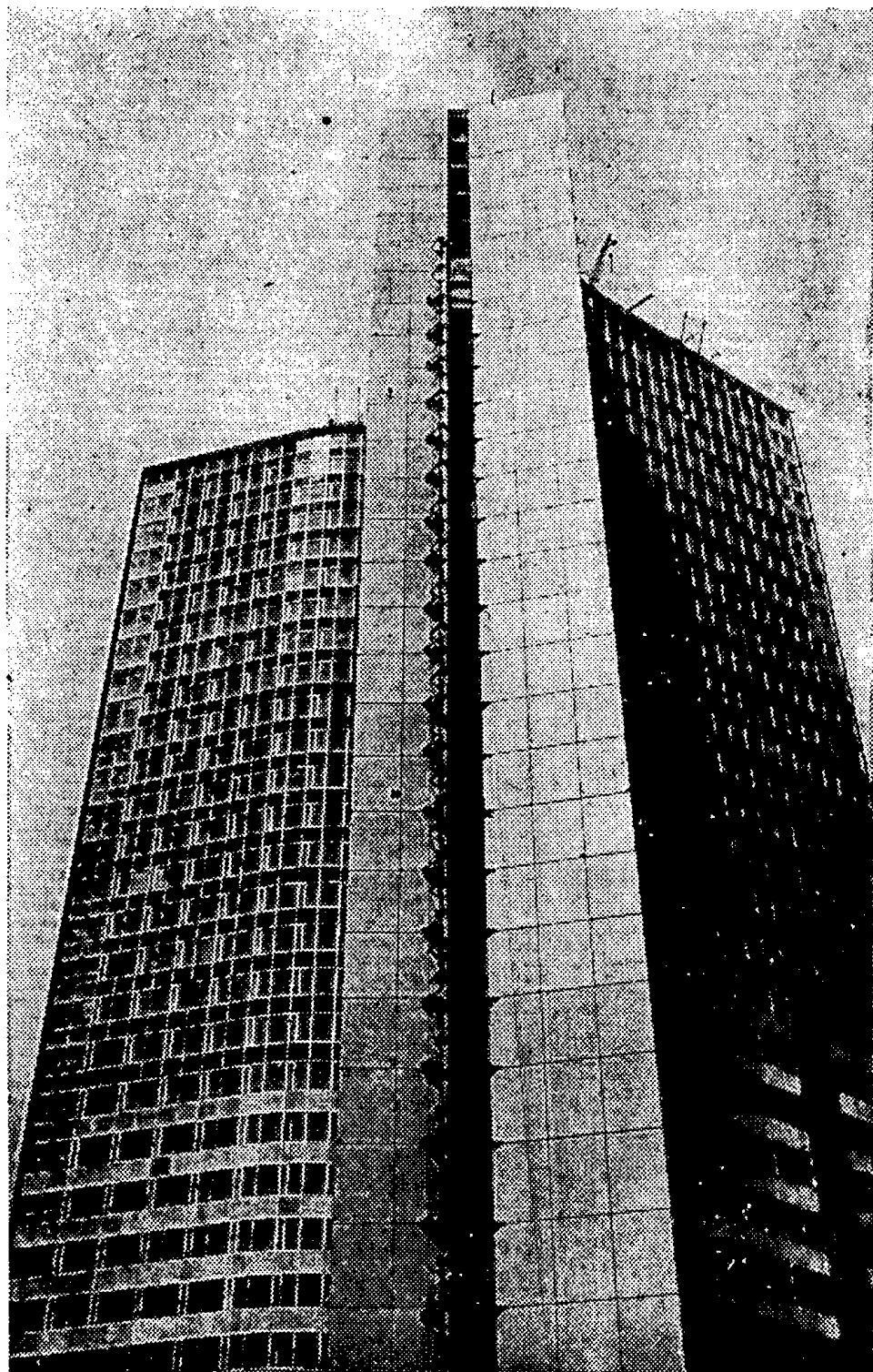
This year the food displays in store windows were imaginative and more plentiful; there were fancy shoes, costume jewelry and enough flashy consumer goods to make the streetscape less bare; kiosks on every avenue sold oranges and ice cream and queues lined up for kvass, a refreshing thin beer made from fermented rye, and sudden deliveries of popcorn.

This year's girls wore beehive hairdos of many artificial colors, tentatively short skirts and eye make-up ingeniously improvised from East European drawing pencils found in art supply stores.

The visitor who comes to see the kind of world a planned society has built in half a century brings the well-publicized image of crumbling construction and drab vistas. He finds new 20- and 30-story skyscrapers rising dramatically along Moscow's main avenues. Modern architecture has flowered with the lilacs and tulips this spring.

Close by, churches and historic buildings are being restored with patience and quantities of shimmering gold leaf.

Beyond the skyscrapers and the treasures of the Kremlin the characteristic, post-Napoleonic streets of the eighteenth century, with their small classic buildings finished in umber-toned plaster, wait quietly for demolition. Rugged,



Garth Huxtable for The New York Times

The 32-story Council of Mutual Economic Assistance Building is being put up in Moscow by the Soviet Union and five Eastern European lands.

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that stolidly dominated the Stalin-era

By count of the Institute of Town

learn the basic skills that are practiced

News from Sovfoto

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that things are measured differently by the Russians. What is sterility to Americans is bliss to them. The clean but un-

There is a grayness in most Soviet cities that is equally of the spirit and of the

The outlying landscape of free enterprise is sordid and chaotic; of a state-planned society, clean and regimented. It is not a choice that offers many pluses in either case.

BUILDING BOOM: New housing projects ring the Soviet capital as the government seeks to satisfy consumer demand.

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SUBURBAN MOSCOW: Prefabricated, prestressed, reinforced concrete 12-story apartment houses stretch away to the horizon in the city's Southwest District.

Tomorrow: Housing in Moscow are